

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following subheading and paragraph on page 1, after the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-378345, filed December 26, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 5, as follows:

In the cable connection system, a mainline network and branch lines to households were conventionally realized by coaxial cables. However, the tendency has been toward an increase in use of data communication such as Internet connection as previously described ~~above~~. On this account, in the case of a best-effort connection system, there is ~~the~~ a problem that a heavy traffic causes a significant drop of a communication speed for each user.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21, and ending on page 3, line 7, as follows:

For example, even in the case of using 64QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation), ~~that~~ which is no longer state-of-art technology, as a modulation system of data communication used in the cable network, it is possible to carry out high-speed data communication with a bandwidth of 6MHz and a transmission rate of 30Mbit/sec. In fact, using an unassigned channel of a cable television, a transmission rate of 4Mbit/sec to 27Mbit/sec has been realized. ~~Used to use~~ in transmitting/receiving digital signals over a cable network as a high-speed analog communication network in such a manner ~~is~~ like a cable modem.

Please amend the subheading on page 11, line 5, as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE ~~EMBODIMENTS~~ INVENTION